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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 August 2014 20:44  
**Subject:** Water Charges Plan Consultation

I wanted to comment on the proposed water charges for domestic consumption.

The first matter is in respect of households without a meter. It appears that a basic charge will be applied for a single person householder with a lower per capita charge for additional adults in the house. This seems to be the opposite to the situation where a household is metered and the first occupant can avail of the full 30,000 litre allowance to themselves and the additional occupants result in a higher per capita charge for the household. Why have these opposite approaches been taken to levying the charge? Surely the single occupant unmetered household should have a lower charge to reflect the 30,000 litre allowance?

How will a house occupant be defined for an unmetered household? Some household members may only live there for part of the year. A student, for example, may be at college for much of the year paying for water at that premises and then return home for the summer or holidays. How is the occupancy of a household to be monitored? It would seem wrong to charge for a person in a household if they are not using water there even if it is their official residence.

Why is the free allowance based on a property rather than a person? Water is not something that can be shared in the same way as gas or electricity. Whether for drinking, washing or sanitation, it is not possible to share water. I think this is recognised in the per child allowance which is envisaged. Why should adults be treated differently? Why hasn't consideration been given to a personal allowance? Is there a constitutional issue in not treating all citizens the same way for water?

Regards

[REDACTED]